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ANSWER

TO THE

REASONS

AGAINST

An African COMPANY

Humbly Submitted

To the Consideration of the Patriots of
Great-Britain, in this Present Parlia-
ment Assembled.

Non minor est virtus, quam querere, parata Tueri.

Fronte Capillata, post est occasio Calva.

L O N D O N,

Printed in the Year, 1711.

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ANSWER

T O T H E

REASONS

A G A I N S T

An African COMPANY

TH E Writer of this Paper, being Infinitely Concerned, to see a Trade of such Benefit and Importance so little minded, and regarded by Persons of all Ranks and Denominations, that for three Sessions of Parliament successively, and now a fourth half Spent; nothing should be resolved upon in a Parliamentary way, for

the Support and Establishment thereof; notwithstanding all the Application, and Memorials of the Present Company, and Separate-Traders, for and against a Joyn-Stock: He thinks he does not exceed the Bonds of Charity, if he suspects that, hitherto we have been Universally under a Strong Delusion; being either entirely Ignorant of the Nature, and Importance of the Subject matter in Debate; Or, that some late Politicians, rather than forego the Prospect of supplying some Future Exigency of the State, had Resolved to Hazard the utter Ruine of the Trade; Or, that there have been some Powerful Agents, and Emissaries Employ'd under hand by a Rival Nation, to Under Mine every Project, and Oppose all Measures which most Probably might Thwart their Interest; Or, Lastly that, we have resolved, rather than submit to one another, and Unite on Reasonable Terms, to convince the World how much we prefer our Private Passions and Resentments to the Publick good and Interest of our Country; and that we had rather Obtain our own Ends against one Another, than hinder Foreigners from taking the Bone of Contention out of our Hands altogether. What else, I Pray, if not some one or all of these Wretched Motives, could have prevented a Final Determination of this Important Controversy to this Day? And how can those of the Legislature to whom it

it properly belonged, excuse themselves that they did not; how will the Present Representatives of the Commons of *Great-Britain*, answer the Trust reposed in them, if they do not Speedily, and Effectually Settle, and Secure so very Valuable a Branch of the *British-Trade*.

It is acknowledged on all Sides that the Trade is of the Greatest Importance, and absolutely necessary to be Supported and Carried on: And that Forts and Settlements must be Built, and Maintained for the Defence and Preservation thereof. The Present Company Declare, that unless the Queen and Parliament, will Confirm the Privileges granted them by their Charter, they are utterly Unable to Support the said Forts and Settlements, or to Carry on a Trade any Longer. This being the plain matter of Fact; the Question is, whether the Present Company's Charter shall be Confirmed by Act of Parliament? Whether a New Company shall be Establish'd with a New Joyt-Stock? Or whether the Trade shall be laid Open for all Persons to Trade Indifferently as they Please? I Conceive, and withal Submission be it said, the Parliament is Obligated, and must Resolve upon one or other of those Methods: Nor can any thing Justify, or Excuse longer Delays in an Affair of so great moment: I will not Interpose my Judgment, or pretend to Determine which

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is most Expedient to Confirm the Present Company's Charter; or to Establish a New Company by Act of Parliament. But I shall Endeavour Briefly to shew that the Reasons against Carrying on the Trade by a Company, are Weak and Fallacious, and even Contrary to Reason, and Experience it self. And in doing this, I profess not to Plead for; or to Oppose any Set of Men; either the Present Company, or the Separate-Traders: But only to shew that the Trade may, and must be Carried on by a Company, (whether Old or New, is Indifferent to me,) and not in an Open way.

To form a Right Judgment of this matter, we ought Carefully to Compare both Schemes together; *viz.* That for a Joynt-Stock, and that for an Open Trade; and to weigh the Conveniencies, and Inconveniencies attending Each, and then to give our Suffrage for that which is attended, with the most and Greatest Conveniencies and the fewest or least Inconveniencies.

Thus for Instance; As to the Conveniencies attending each Scheme, it ought to be Considered; if as many of Her Majesty's Subjects as pleases, be Admitted to Subscribe to the Amount 4 or 500000 *l.* Or any other larger Sum, for the Carrying on the *African* Trade; whether such a Stock be not a bet-

ter Security, and more Proportioned to the Nature and Importance of the Trade, than a Bare Possibility that the Trade may be Carried on to Advantage in an Open way, or that Separate Merchants will Trade Voluntarily for as large Sums? Who will be most willing, and most Able to Support, and Maintain the Forts and Settlements, and make new Discoveries, a Permanent and never failing Company, with a large Stock always at Command, or an Uncertain, and Unknown Number of Separate-Traders, who may, and will Employ their Stocks in that Trade, or in any other as their Humour or Interest shall lead them? How can we best Maintain, and Improve the *British* Interest against the Pretensions, Power and Practices of other *European* Rivals? How can we best make and Maintain Alliances, and Contracts with the Treacherous, Cunning, and Savage Natives? How can the Forts and Factories be Constantly, and Regularly Supply'd with Governors, Factors, Soldiers, Artificers and Slaves; with all sorts of Proper Vendible Goods and Marchandize; and with all sorts of Warelike Stores, Provisions, and Materials for the Defence and Repairs of the several Necessary Settlements? Certainly he must be Blind or Infatuated, who will say that a Joynt-Stock, under one Uniform Influence

and Direction, is not in these Respects Infinitely Preferable to the loose, and Precarious Schemes of an Open Trade.

Again, as to the Inconveniencies attending each of those Contrary Schemes; Let it be seriously, and Impartially Considered on which side the Ballance Lyes. For almost a Century past, the *Dutch* have, and still do use all their Art and Interest to Grasp and Engross the whole Trade of the *African* Coast to themselves, as they have already done that of the Richest Countries of the *East-Indies*; The *British* Interest has for about Twenty Years been divided; and our Marchants have been Endeavouring not to Underfel other Nations, but to Undo one another. And by such Practices, and Mutual Contests, the Prices of Slaves are so Advanced, and the Value of our Manufactures are so depreciated, that the Trade is in the Greatest Hazard of being utterly Lost. Such being the present Lamentable State of the Trade; Let every Reasonable Man put the Question to himself, which is preferable, to put it in the Power of one part of a Kingdom, to Impose in some things upon the Rest, or to put it in the Power of other Nations, or even of Barbarous Heathens to Embarrass the Trade, and Hazard the utter Loss thereof to the Nation in General? Which is most Dangerous, for the
Planters

Planters to run the Hazard of Paying too Dear for their Slaves, or to run the Hazard of having none Imported to them at all? For a *British* Company to Engross some part of the Plantation Commodities, or for a *Dutch* Company to Engross, and become Masters of all the *African* Settlements? How is it Possible, in an open way, where the Government of *Africa* would be in one hand, and the Trade in another; where the Climate is allowed to be so Unhealthy; and where the Sallaries and Profits of Governors and Factors, would be so Precarious and Inconsiderable; how is it possible, I say, that upon such a footing, sufficient Numbers of well Qualified Persons, either for the Governing or Trading Account, will be Induced to Expose their Lives to such Hazards, and upon such slender Inducements? Or, if want and necessity should compel some to accept of such Despicable Preferments; If Private-Traders should find some Persons, who would undertake, upon a small Encouragement, to go and be their Factors; what Jarring Discords and Divisions must there be in one and the same Factory, where every Governor will be for enriching himself, and every Private Factor, striving to undersel, and undermine his Neighbour? And upon the Mortality of Governors, or Factors on the Coast,

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or upon any Disputes which may arise between the Military Men and the Merchants; How shall the Vacancies in the Government be filled up? Who shall be accountable for the Goods and Effects in the Care and Trust of the Deceased Factors? And where shall we find Commissioners for Trade, to redress the Grievances, and support the Cause of the Merchants? Again, suppose the Publick Fund at any time fall Short, and the *British* Interest be thereby in danger of Suffering; must the Governours notwithstanding sit still, and patiently wait for fresh Supplies? Or shall he be Impowered to make use of the Goods and Effects of Private Merchants? Is it to be suppos'd that Men of Sense and bred up to Business, will venture their Estates in a Trade exposed to such, and a Multitude of other Inconveniencies and Uncertainties? May the Advocates for an Open Trade impartially consider both sides of the Question; and in particular, that it is and always will be in the Power of the Legislature to Model and Regulate their own Companies, and to prescribe Remedies upon any emergent Occasion; but not so on the other Side, to recover a lost Trade, but at the hazard of a bloody, chargeable and uncertain War. And whosoever will give himself the trouble to weigh these Things in the ballance of Reason, I am perswaded he will have so much Regard and Compassion for
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the Future Prosperity of his Country, as not to think of so dangerous an Expedient, as that of laying the Trade Open; but rather bend his Thoughts to promote such an Establishment upon the foot of a Joynt-Stock, as may best secure and advance the Honour and Interest of *Great-Britain*, and give the least Umbrage to the Colonies and Plantations thereunto belonging.

Tho' these General Reflexions might well serve as an Answer to all that has been objected against an *African-Company*: Yet for the sake of those who have not had the Leasure or Opportunity to be more fully informed of this most Important Controversie; I shall in the last Place subjoyn Particular Answers to the most material Arguments alledged against a Company; as they are lately published in a Paper, entituled, Reasons against Establishing an *African-Company* at *London*, Exclusive to the Plantations, and all the Out-Ports, and other Subjects of *Great-Britain*.

Arg. I. 'Tis well known, that all the African-Companies, which have ever yet been established in Europe, have become Bankrupt in some Years after their Establishment. Witness the Portuguese, Brandenburg, and Dutch Companies, besides ours in England, who have failed three times since the Restoration: And in the intervals of Time, the Trade altho' lost by such Companies, have been again

gain recovered, supported and carried on, by Private-Traders in England, by the Brazil-Traders and Planters in Portugal, and by the Interlopers in Holland, or otherwise the African-Trade must have been lost to each of those Nations, especially ours: And the Plantations must long since have been ruined, had it not been for the large supply of Negroes yearly furnished by Private-Traders, and the Liberty the Planters have had of fetching their own Negroes,

Ans. The first Part of this Argument produced against Establishing a Company, is, as I humbly Conceive, a strong Argument for One: For, if a Society of Merchants Trading upon the Foot of a large Joynt-Stock; That is, if all the *African-Adventurers* of a Nation Joyning their Heads and Purfes together, met with such Difficulties and Hardships, as reduced them to Bankrupcy, how is it possible that the single and separate Endeavours, yea, and the Interfering Councils and Interests of Private-Traders could ever contribute to the Discovery or Advancement of such a Trade? All that this Argument Proves, is, That such Companies either had great Losses by Wars with other Nations, or that they were at a vast Expence to struggle with other Foreign Rivals, to make new Discoveries, build Forts, and to obtain and secure an Interest with the Natives. And if by such Means,

Means, former Companies happened to fail, it is by no means an Argument against a Company; but rather ought to induce the Legislature to supply such a Failure, by another Company with a larger Stock and more advantageous Powers and Privileges the better to enable the New Adventurers to struggle with and overcome all such Difficulties.

As to what is further alledged, that such Companies have lost the Trade, and that other Private-Traders have again recovered and supported it, is just the Reverse of what both Reason and Experience tells us to be True. For it is manifest, that when such Companies had recovered the Trade, and brought it to some Method and Regularity, it was always the Encroachments of the Private-Traders upon their respective Charters, that reduced the Trade into the utmost Disorder and Confusion. But the most unparallel'd Piece of Assurance is to assert that the *Dutch* Interlopers, the *Brazil-Traders*, and our Separate-Traders have again recovered, supported and carried on the *African-Trade*, which otherwise must have been lost to each of those Nations; when 'tis well known to all the World, that the *Dutch* never were permitted to Trade to *Africa* but in a Company, and that all Interlopers of that Nation always have been, and still are, by the Laws of the State, adjudged lawful Prizes to the Company, if taken on
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that Coast; for which Reason the *Dutch* Company do constantly keep one or two Cruisers on the Coast of *Africa*. And as to the *Portuguese* and *Brazil-Traders*, 'tis well known, that they are so far from having recovered or supported this Trade, that the *Dutch* have taken all their Forts and Settlements from them on the Gold Coast, and now make Prize of all the *Brazil* or *Portuguese* Vessels they find Trading on that Coast. And should the Trade be now laid open, I doubt not but the Improvements of our Separate-Traders would turn to much the same Account. For if under the Protection of a Company, they have not been able, or at least have not attempted to build any One new Settlement, or to make any other Improvement in the Trade; I am at a loss to think, how, when all the Burden shall be devolved upon themselves, they will be able to support the Settlements we have already, or carry on the Trade as hitherto it has been done.

Arg. II. *An Exclusive Company, with a Parliamentary Sanction, would prove to this Nation a dangerous Experiment, and the greatest Grievance of any in the worst of times, which will plainly appear on considering the Consequences; as being but one Buyer of the many sorts of Woollen, and other British Manufactures, proper for Africa; as being but one Freighter of all the Ships employed*

in the Trade Outwards; but one Seller of Negroes to our Plantations; But one Importer of Gold from Africa, and Silver from the Spaniards; but one Buyer and but one Freighter, of almost all our Productions from America; and but one Seller of all those Productions here again, after their Arrival; on all which they would Put their own Prizes, and consequently become the sole Director of this Great Circle of Trade and Navigation, wherein are employed near 1000 Sail of Ships, and on which Depends 4 or 500000 Persons Livelihoods, of all Sorts, who must Directly or Indirectly, be subject to the Managers of this Company; and on this Company would depend the Rise or Fall of our Plantations, the Ballance of Trade Abroad, the Increase or Decrease of our Breed of Seamen, and Naval Architecture: So that the Confining of this Trade to one Person or Monoply would in its Consequence, Affect the very well-being of Great-Britain, in all its most tender Parts.

Ans. Thus have I transcrib'd the Argument *verbatim*, as it is lately printed in the above-mentioned Paper, Entituled Reasons against Establishing an *African-Company* at London, &c. And it must be acknowledged, it is the most plausible and popular Argument that can be urged against a Company: But still I hope to convince Impartial Judges, that it cannot in Reason to be admitted as sufficient to obstruct such a Settlement. for,

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1. The Disadvantages supposed to arise from the several *Unities* in the Objection, as one Buyer at Home, one Exporter to *Africa*, one Seller in the Plantations &c. does at the worst but turn the Disadvantage of one Subject to the Advantage of another, which still makes no odds in a National Account; whereas many Sellers on the Coast of *Africa* does, and will Infallibly, more and more depreciate the Value of our Goods and Manufactures there, and consequently Discourage their Exportation, and sink their Value at Home, and also be an Occasion of still raising the Prizes of Slaves in the Plantations, until the Trade be reduced to that Pass, that neither any *British* Merchant can Trade, nor the Planters be supplied with Slaves; all which only tend to enrich the Negroes, or our Rivals the *Dutch*, and would be the Occasion of Great National Losses.

2. If the Trade be carried on by a Company, the Plantations may Probably be supplied with Negroes at moderate Rates, which in an open way they can never Expect: For as it would be in the Power of a Company to keep up the Prizes of their Goods, and to buy Slaves at Moderate Rates on the Coast of *Africa*; as on the other side Traders in an open way will always undersel and out-bid one another; by how much the more certain
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it is that the cheapest Buyer can afford the best Penny-worth to the Plantations, so much the greater is the Probability that a Company will supply them with Slaves at more Moderate Rates than Private-Traders can do: In short, I think the Case may be stated thus; which is more eligible, a Probability that the Plantations may be supplied with Slaves at Moderate Rates by a Company, or an Impossibility that they ever can be so in an Open Way; which is so plain a Dilemma, as leaves no room for Deliberation to determine.

3. But as the Plantations deserve all possible Regard and Encouragement, other Expedients may be found out to Answer all their just Expectations, and to set them beyond any Apprehension or Danger of being Imposed upon, or ill Treated by a Company; without having recourse to such a Desperate Remedy, as Undermining the very Foundations, and Exposing the Root and source of all their Strength and Riches to the mercy of a Powerful and Encroaching Rival, and to many other unaccountable Hazards and Difficulties. For, if a Company should be Established under an Obligation to Export Yearly to the Value of 1000000*l.* more or less as the Wisdom of

Parliament shall think fit; Its Manifest such a Company must Buy the Proper Goods here, and consequently Employ the same or rather a much greater Number of Hands, than are now Employ'd; they must Export them to the Coast of *Africa*, and Employ a proportionable Number of Ships; they must sell their Goods there, And Invest the much greater Part of 'em in Slaves; such Slaves they must Transport to the Plantations; and when they are there, they must, to avoid Charges and Mortality, sell them at Moderate Rates. This appears to me as clear as any Demonstration. But if, after all, a Company should at any time attempt to put any Hardship upon the Plantations, has not the Queen Her Governours in every Colony and Island, to whom the Planters may Complain, and upon whose Representation, the Queen and Council may be empowered to hear and redress such Grievances, and oblige the Company from time to time to take such Measures, as may give all reasonable Satisfaction to the Planters. These or any other Expedients for the Encouragement and Satisfaction of the Plantations ought readily to be Embraced; and 'tis to be hoped that all Men of Temper and Sound Judgment will Acquiesce therein.

4. That there will be but one Buyer, and but one Freighter of almost all our Productions from *America*, and but one Seller of all those Productions here again, after their Arrival; is a False and Malicious Suggestion: For it is owned in the Objection, that the Plantations imploy near 1000 Sail of Ships; and it is certain that the *African-Trade* never yet Employ'd 100 Sail of Ships; so that if we Judge by the Proportion of Shipping; Its Manifest an *African-Company* can never Engross the Tenth Part of the Plantation Trade, and consequently can never Command the Markets either there, at Home, or in any other Part of *Europe*, to the Prejudice of other Planters and Merchants. And whosoever will give himself the Trouble to compare the Number of Working-Slaves in the several Plantations; with the Annual Recruits which may be thought Necessary to supply Mortality; or the Annual Produce and Returns of the several Plantations, with the Produce and Returns of such Annual Recruits, will find that no *African-Company* can ever Engross one Tenth Part of the Plantation Trade: So that the mighty Arguments, that on such a Company would depend the Rise or Fall of our Plantations; the Bal-

lance of Trade Abroad; the Increase or Decrease of our Breed of Seamen, and Naval Architecture, if meant in Prejudice of a Company, are altogether Groundless and Chimerical, and only crouded into the Argument, the better to Amuse and deceive unwary Readers.

Arg. III. Our Ancestors have found it absolutely Necessary to lay open all the Trades that have been Monopolized, such as the Canary, Hamburgh, East-Country, Spanish, Portugal Italian, and others, which have thereby become very Extensive. And we have laid open lately the Russia-Trade, which a few Years since, Employed but Five or Six Ships a Year, but now since it's being open'd, above 100 Ships a Year. And on the other Hand it was thought fit some Years ago to Erect a Greenland-Company, Exclusive to all others, under the specious pretences now made use of for an Exclusive African-Trade; But in Four or Five Years time, that Company became Bankrupt, and the Persons usually Employed in that Trade left our Country, which is thereby now Entirely lost to this Nation.

Ans. This is so far from being true, that our Ancestors have always encourag'd the carrying on distant and hazardous Trades,
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by united Interests and Companies ; more especially where such Trades could not, with any certainty or security, be carried on in an open way ; witness the *East-India* Trade, and this *African* Trade ; the former whereof was always carried on by a Company, till of late Years, that the Trade was open'd and divided by Authority of Parliament, upon which Ensued such Misfortunes and Losses, that all Parties, after they had lost to the Nation above a Million Sterling were fain to Unite together into that which is now called, *The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East-Indies*. And 'tis hop'd, if any Argument be drawn from other Trades, that this late Instance drawn from the *East-India* Trade, as bearing a nearer resemblance to the Nature and Circumstance of the *African* Trade, than any of those mention'd in the Objection, will sufficiently demonstrate the necessity of carrying on this Trade too, by a Company with a Joint-Stock. But to shew the weakness of such Arguments drawn from the Nature and Methods of carrying on other Trades. I Challenge all the Adversaries of a Company to shew me any other Country or Trade in the World, under the like Circumstances with *Africa*, and the *African* Trade. Is not the *African* Trade,

Trade, the root and support of all the Plantation Trade, as it supplies them with labouring Slaves? And does not the Country it self abound with the richest Treasures and Mines of Gold in the World? Are not the Natives a treacherous, barbarous and defenceless People? And do not the *Hollanders* claim a right to, and have they not ever endeavour'd to become the sole Master's of those rich Countries? Is not their part of the Trade carried on by a Company, and supported and secur'd by numerous Forts and Settlements? And shall we be so bewitch'd as to slight the Consideration of such Important Affairs? Or is it prudent and adviseable to despise and reject all those Means and Methods in which they place their chief Confidence and Security? Is a Share and Interest in the inestimable Treasures and Mines of Gold in *Africa*, and the Support and Preservation of many fair and flourishing Colonies and Plantations in *America*, a Matter of so little Importance to this Nation, as that they may be expos'd to the Mercy and Pretensions of so very powerful a Rival, who greedily watches all Opportunities to get the sole Possession of the former, and to hedge in the springs of all future Supplies from the latter? Does all, or any one

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of these Circumstances agree with the *Hamburgh, East-Country, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Russia, or Greenland Trades*; Or is there any shadow of Reason, that because they are open, therefore the *African Trade* ought to be so too. Surely he must be blind that does not see, or strongly byass'd by Prejudice or Self-interest, that will not own the difference.

Arg. IV. *It is alledg'd, that an Exclusive Company is contrary to the Birth-right and Liberty of the Subject; that the Out-Ports of Great Britain will be excluded from any share of the Trade; and finally, that such an Establishment would be a direct breach of the Articles of Union.*

Answ. In answer to the first part of the Objection, it ought to be observ'd, that the ambiguity of the word *Liberty* has deceiv'd many well meaning Persons; for if by *Liberty* be meant *natural Liberty*, it is only another name for *Anarchy* and *Confusion*, and in such a sense the Arguments drawn from the Birth-right and Liberty of the Subject, plead equally against all the Corporations of *Great Britain* and against all Orders and Distinctions of Men, as against a Joint-Stock Constitution; which,

I hope no honest Member of any Society would think of, without Horror and Detestation. But if by Liberty, be meant a *Civil Liberty*, such as is most agreeable to, and best adapted for promoting the Common Interests of the whole *Community*, then, I humbly conceive the Advocates for a Joint-Stock, are most truly and sincerely desirous of such a Liberty. For, if a new Joint-Stock be subscrib'd, as large as the Trade can bear, and all and every of her Majesty's Subjects of *Great Britain* and the Plantations, who shall or may be inclined to trade to *Africa*, be admitted to subscribe, or buy what share of that Common-Stock they think fit, and thereby be set upon an equal foot with all the rest of their fellow Subjects; and entitled to a share of the profits of the Trade, in proportion to their respective Adventures: I confess, I can see no reason to surmise, that such a Constitution would be in the least repugnant to the Civil Liberty of the Subject; nay, I hope I have already made it appear, that our Civil Rights and Liberty to the Trade cannot be preserved and secured, but by such a Joint-Stock Constitution.

2. As to the Case of the Out-Ports; the Assertion is False, that they will be excluded from any Share of the Trade: For when so large a Stock shall be employed in the *African* Trade, as that proposed in a Company; such a Company must necessarily, and in regard of their own Interest, make Enquiry in all Parts of *Great-Britain*, what sorts of Manufactures every Shire or County Produces, proper for the *African-Trade*; and in Proportion as the Counties or Shires abound with such Manufactures or Commodities, so will the Respective adjacent Ports be more or less frequented by *African* Ships, in order to Transport them to the Magazines in *Africa*, and bring thither again the Returns of the Plantations. And thus, tho' the Government and Direction of the Trade be confined to *London*, yet will the Influence and Benefit thereof, become more Favourable and Extensive over all Parts of the United Kingdom, than can possibly happen in an Open Way. And if this will not be admitted as Sufficient and Satisfactory, I answer further; that since *Bristol* already is, and *Glasgow* may, become a very Considerable Out-Port for this Trade; the Parliament may, if they Please, Oblige an *African-Company* to Ship off Annually from each of those Ports, such a Proportion

portion of the Total Yearly Exportation, as upon Mature Consideration, they shall think fit.

3. The Last Part of the Objection drawn from the Articles of Union, is only made use of, in hopes to byass the Representatives of *North-Britain* in Favour of an Open Trade. For if it be considered that *North-Britain* is now a Part of the United Kingdom; That, by this Establishment, all the Merchants and Inhabitants of *North-Britain* would have the same Right and Title to Trade upon the Foot of the General Joynt-Stock, as the Merchants and Inhabitants of *England* would have: And that it is, and always must be in the Power of the Legislature, to make such Regulations and Restrictions in Matters of Trade, as may most conduce to the Preservation and Improvement thereof, and to the General Good of the whole Kingdom: I say, whosoever will impartially consider these Things, must acknowledge that to Establish an *African-Company* for the better Carrying on and Improving the said Trade, is not in the least Repugnant to the Articles of Union; as some evil Designing Persons would Insinuate.

These, as I conceive, are the most material Objections against an *African-Company*; whither

whither I have fully Answered them, is left to the Reader to Determine.

I shall only in the last Place humbly crave leave to conclude with some short Reflections, on the *Nature* and *Advantages* of such an *African-Company* as, with all Submission, I conceive ought to be Established for the Preservation and Improvement of the Trade.

As to the Nature of such a Company I Conceive.

1. That all Persons of all Qualities, Sexes, and Ages in *Great-Britain*, and the Plantations ought to be Invited to partake of a share of the Trade.
2. That Books ought to be Opened, and Subscriptions taken for a General Joynt-Stock; and that the said General Joynt-Stock, Quick and Dead, ought to Amount to 4 or 500000 *l*.
3. That the Company be obliged to Export Annually to the Coast of *Africa* in Goods and Marchandize to the Value of One Hundred Thousand Pounds.
4. That the Company be obliged to Export Yearly from *Bristol*, *Glasgow*, or any other

other Out Port of *Great-Britain*, such a Proportion of the said 100000 *l.* as the Parliament shall think fit.

As to the Advantages which will redound to this Kingdom from such a Constitution; I shall only Enumerate the Principal ones, which I take to be as follows,

1. The Exports being so large and Certain, there will be more hands and Shipping Employed at Home, and in the Trade for a Constancy, than yet has been, or ever can be hoped for in an Open way.

2. The Forts and Settlements, on the Coast of *Africa* would be Constantly, and Regularly Supply'd with all sorts of proper vendible Goods; whereby the *British-Factors* would always be enabled to supply the Inland-Traders, with such Goods as they want, and prevent their going to the *Dutch* Factories to be furnished.

3. The Forts and Settlements being thus Constantly, and Regularly Supply'd, the Companies Factors would be enabled to Purchase Slaves, and the other Commodities of the Country at all times of the Year; And by such means they would always have

have great Numbers of Slaves, and great Quantities of Gold in Readiness against the Arrival of Shipping, which would greatly Contribute to the Dispatch of Ships, and Prevent Mortality of Slaves.

4. The Forts and Settlements being always Plentifully Stocked, with all sorts of Goods; the Companies Factors, would have a Constant and Inexhaustible Fund to Defray all the Necessary Charges of the several Garrisons; to Repair the Present, and to Build new Forts and Settlements, as the Interest of *Great-Britain* may from time to time Require; to Ballance the Power, and Countermine the Underhand Practices of the *Hollanders*, and to Preserve, make and Improve Contracts, and Alliances with the Natives, for the better Carrying on, and Improvement of the Trade.

5. The Trade being Carried on under one Uniform Influence and Direction, the Companies Factors would be enabled to Reduce the Prices of Slaves, and Advance, or at least keep up, the Value of our own Manufactures; so that instead of the Natives putting the Drudgery upon us, and playing the Interest of one *British* Subject against
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that of another, to the great Disadvantage of the Nation in General, we should then free the Trade from all those Inconveniences, and be in a much better Capacity to Contend with our other *European* Rivals.

6. Such a Company Established by Act of Parliament, would become so Powerful, and acquire such Reputation with the *Dutch*, that they would heartily Joyn with us, to Expel the *French* from that Coast, and to put a stop to all the Trade, and Commerce which they Drive with the *Spaniards* for Slaves, to the great Benefit and Advantage of France.

7. Such a Company would be Able to Discover, and Work the Gold Mines of *Africa*, which in a few Years might bring the greatest accession of Wealth to this Crown, and Kingdom.

8. Such a Company will be able to supply the *Spanish* *Assiento* with Slaves, and in return bring home their Gold and Silver; whereas if the Trade be laid Open, other Nations will entirely Engross that part of the *Spanish-West-India* Trade from us.

9 Such

9. Such a Company having the sole Management of the Trade on the Coast of *Africa*, and being able to keep up the Prices of their Goods, to buy Slaves at reasonable rates, and to give their Ships a Quick Dispatch, will thereby be enabled, and also find it their Interest to supply the Plantations with Slaves at more Moderate Rates, than can otherwise with any Colour of Reason be Expected.

10. The Colonies and Plantations being Regularly, and Plentifully Supplied with Slaves at Moderate Rates; the Planters will thereby be Enabled to Cultivate and Improve their Plantations much more than hitherto they have done; which will Proportionally Increase, and Improve the Trade and Shipping of this Kingdom.

These are some of the Advantages, which would Manifestly flow from a Joynt-Stock Constitution; and I humbly Conceive that they are of that Moment and Consequence, and Deserve so much Regard and Consideration, that I need say no more to Recommend, and Enforce a speedy Settlement of the *African Trade*.

F I N I S.

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and Shipping of this Kingdom.

There are some of the Advantages which
would Magnanily flow from a Joint-Stock
Company, and I humbly Conclude that
they are at this Moment and Conjunction,
and Desires to much Regard and Consider-
ation, that I need say no more to Reason
and Balance a speedy Settlement of
the African Trade.